

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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Weekly Update

One-stop disaster assistance centers to transfer services

June 26, 2008- The state will continue efforts to assist victims of recent severe storms but is beginning to close the one-stop disaster assistance centers that were opened within days of flooding and tornadoes in the central and southwestern areas of the state from May 30 to June 7.

We are very thankful to our community partners at the American Red Cross and Salvation Army for everything they have done, as well as to school corporations and other groups that have opened their buildings for us to use," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "Our work is by no means complete, but we are well on our way to recovery."

For the first time, the state created the centers by bringing together teams from the state Department of Health, Workforce Development, FSSA, Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), Department of Insurance, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Department of Agriculture, and the Office of Technology to offer state services to storm victims in one place. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Red Cross and Salvation Army also have offered services in the same locations.

"Thousands of Indiana citizens are well on their way to recovery because of the unique cooperation between the state of Indiana and the FEMA one-stop shops for disaster victims," said Mike Smith, FEMA's federal coordinating officer for Indiana. "This commitment shows the willingness of the state to do whatever it takes to help its citizens recover and is to be commended and emulated."

At the centers:

- Nearly 800 state employees worked more than 40,800 hours since the effort began two weeks ago. At the centers, the state offered 134 laptops and 80 phones so victims could apply for federal assistance
- Over 40 percent of all Indiana FEMA applications to date have been processed at one of the state's centers.
- 188 Hoosier flood victims found temporary and permanent housing through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.
- \$3.3 million of disaster food stamp relief was provided to over 9,592 Hoosier households.
- 763 Hoosiers signed up for disaster unemployment insurance.
- 3,072 tetanus immunizations were given and 4,287 well water testing kits were delivered through state health officials
- BMV's mobile unit visited the centers and helped 320 individuals reprint licenses and reinstate vehicle titles lost in the disaster.



June 28, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels served as the grand marshal of the Charlestown Bicentennial Festival Parade

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To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Department of Correction Commissioner Donahue to depart

June 24, 2008— Governor Mitch Daniels has accepted the resignation of Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue, who plans to return to his home state of Kentucky later this summer.

"Dave's decision to return to Kentucky is based on family considerations, and I accept and respect his choice. But I do so reluctantly, because I am convinced that Dave Donahue is the finest corrections commissioner in the country, and he'll be impossible to replace," said Daniels.

Donahue has transformed the department into a model agency focused on public safety and preparing offenders for successful reentry into their communities. Among his accomplishments since 2005 are:

- Pressing for changes in state law that now require sex offenders to undergo treatment before they can take advantage of good time credit opportunities.
- Instituting the Statewide Automated Victim Notification System (SAVIN).
- Opening the first of its kind Plainfield Re-entry Education Facility to focus solely on preparing short-term offenders for re-entry into their communities.
- Studying and measuring how Correction programs affect recidivism rates.

"When I accepted this assignment, the governor challenged me to 'measure up and follow up', because, as he says, 'if you aren't keeping score, you're only practicing'. I think my most important impact on the department has been to instill that concept into our culture, and that has made the Indiana Department of Correction a finer institution," said Donahue.

Donahue has accepted a position to join a reform effort of the Kentucky criminal justice system. He will be the warden of the Kentucky State Reformatory, the state's largest, and serve as an adviser to the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council.

The governor named LaPorte native and Department of Corrections veteran Edwin Buss as Donahue's successor.

"I earnestly hoped this vacancy would never occur, but as you'd expect from Dave Donahue's phenomenal performance, we had a new commissioner in the waiting," said Daniels.

Buss, 42, has been superintendent of the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City since 2005. He was the superintendent at the Westville Correctional Facility from 2002-2005, where he improved the operations of the state's largest prison.

"There are greater expectations today in the Department of Correction than I've experienced in my 21 years. It gives you a sense of pride when you meet those expectations," said Buss, who said he will continue efforts to improve recidivism rates in the department and expand community collaborations.

Buss began his career as a correctional officer at the Indiana State Prison in 1987 and by 1994 at the Lakeside Correctional Facility in Michigan City had been promoted to the highest rank for a uniformed officer. He joined the administrative ranks in 1997 when he was named a correctional unit team manager, responsible for three housing units and 1,850 inmates at the Indiana State Prison, then served as assistant superintendent of operations/programs from 1998 to 2001.



June 26, 2008- Governor Daniels visited with a group of volunteers from First Baptist Church of Hammond at a Department of Corrections event held at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City.

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? Click [here](#) for more!

Alcoa to add to its southwest Indiana workforce

June 24, 2008- Alcoa Generating Corporation, the power supplier to Alcoa's (NYSE: AA) smelting and fabricating operations in Warrick County, will continue to expand its operations in Newburgh, creating 10 new jobs by the end of the year.

The company, which provides more than 740 megawatts of electricity to Alcoa's 9,000-acre southwestern Indiana aluminum production complex, is investing more than \$600 million to upgrade its equipment and employee training program to increase the environmental performance and power efficiency of the facility.

"We continue to outrun our neighboring states in recruiting new job-creating investment from great global companies like Alcoa," said Nathan Feltman, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. "Decisions like the one Alcoa is making to continue to invest in Indiana reflects a growing confidence in the business climate of our state."

The FORTUNE 500 company, which employs more than 4,000 at four Indiana locations, plans to hire power plant operators, coal handlers and maintenance personnel as part of the expansion.

Automotive supplier to grow its Elkhart operations

June 27, 2008-The Indiana Economic Development Corporation has announced it will award training assistance to Tenneco Inc., (NYSE: TEN) a global manufacturer of automotive emission control and ride control systems, to expand its Indiana operations in Elkhart, creating approximately 60 new jobs.

The FORTUNE 500 company plans to invest nearly \$6 million to add two new catalytic converter manufacturing lines to its 81,000 square-foot Hoffman Street facility that currently manufactures a variety of automotive parts ranging from muffler and converter stampings to hydroformed exhaust products and catalytic converters.

"Tenneco is continuing to provide quality opportunities for Hoosiers all around our state," said Nate Feltman, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. "We couldn't be more pleased that they are renewing their commitment to Indiana and investing in further opportunities for the Elkhart community."



June 26, 2008- Governor Daniels met with a group of contractors at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to re-open U.S. Highway 6. The recently completed project added travel lanes and improved drainage along the road as a part of the governor's Major Moves plan.



June 26, 2008- Governor Daniels joined a group of Kendallville residents to celebrate the re-opening of a recently upgraded section of U.S. Highway 6. plan.

What's Happening In My County

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A Look Ahead...

...This week Governor Daniels will present the Governor's Cup at the 58th annual Madison Regatta.